

PREVENTION WORKS!

NEWS OF THE
CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND
OF MASSACHUSETTS



Kathy Kelley of CTF uses a card from the Talking About Touching curriculum to teach a personal safety lesson to second graders at St. Edward's School in Brockton.

CTF breaking the cycle of child sexual abuse

The statistics on sexual abuse of children can seem overwhelming. Studies show that one out of three girls and one out of five boys are sexually victimized before the age of 18. A pedophile abuses an average of 244 victims over his or her lifetime, according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

The recent child sexual abuse scandal in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston demonstrates that abuse often occurs where least

expected, committed by adults who hold the respect and fondness of families. In fact, in contrast with "stranger danger" stereotypes, studies show that most perpetrators of child sexual abuse are adults who are family members or otherwise known to the child.

When the Archdiocese of Boston needed help in responding to the sexual abuse crisis, it called upon the expertise of the Massachusetts Children's Trust

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STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

Gala raises funds for child abuse prevention

CTF raised over \$170,000 for protection of children at its 13th annual Gala Fundraiser. Celebrity guests included Fox 25 News anchor Jodi Applegate and Billy Costa of Kiss 108 FM and New England Cable News.



At top: CTF Executive Director Suzin Bartley with Board member William F. Kennedy, who was honored at the Gala for his years of service to CTF and the children of Massachusetts. Above left: Gala Co-Chair Anne Gilligan with Constance Compton. Above right: John Sasso, Meg Vallaincourt of the Boston Red Sox, and Bill Coyne. Bottom row from left: NECN news anchor Mike Nikitas and wife, Amy. Tracy Matthews and CTF Board member Robert Sherman; Andre Jacque and wife, CTF Board member The Rev. Zina Jacque of Trinity Church in Boston.

Personal safety

Continued from front page

Fund, including the appointment of CTF Executive Director Suzin Bartley to the Cardinal's Commission for the Protection of Children.

As the only statewide, non-profit organization dedicated solely to the prevention of child abuse and neglect, CTF is uniquely experienced in helping children and adults cope with what is often a difficult topic to address.

"CTF's work with the Commission was important, but we need to recognize that child sexual abuse is not only a problem within the Catholic Church," Bartley said. "It occurs in epidemic numbers throughout society."

Learning to talk about abuse

Since 1990, CTF has provided school-based training curricula in child personal safety to child-care centers, schools, and school districts throughout Massachusetts.

One of those curricula, "Talking About Touching" creates a comfortable environment for discussing the topic of personal safety by including it with general safety information about fire, bicycle, and traffic lessons.

The research-based and age-appropriate curriculum discusses touching in terms of safety. It is not sex edu-

'We felt we became part of the solution of clergy sexual abuse of children instead of being intimidated by the problem. We learned how to talk to our children and how to explain personal safety.'

Kathy Crowe
Archdiocese parent

cation, but simply teaches children the rule for touching: "No one should touch your private body parts, those areas covered by a bathing suit, unless it is to keep you clean and healthy."

"Talking about Touching is one of the oldest and most professionally developed abuse prevention education programs," said David Finkelhor of University of New Hampshire, a nationally recognized expert in sexual exploitation of children.

"It also has been widely used, and evaluated more than any other program," Finkelhor said.

"Talking about Touching is educational material that provides the necessary clarity, accuracy, and simplicity needed for good training in Catholic schools," said Cardinal Commission

member Mary Jane England, M.D., president of Regis College and former commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Social Services.

"It can help educate current and next generations to have zero tolerance for abuse," England said.

Getting parents involved

Working with the developer of the program, Committee for Children, CTF trained Archdiocese staff and volunteers to implement the curriculum in Pre-K, Kindergarten, grades 1 to 4, and religious education classes.

The schools held informational meetings to engage and educate parents, who play a critical role in the success of the program. Parents also receive updates on classroom activities and are asked to reinforce safety lessons at home.

"The curriculum provides the opportunity for parents to acquire the skills and language to better protect their children. For example, parents learn to establish the critical safety rule: 'We don't keep touching secrets in this family,'" Bartley said.

It is estimated that tens of thousands of children, staff, volunteers, and parents will receive the training through the Archdiocese implementation.

"On behalf of the children of the Archdiocese, I'd like to thank the

Upcoming training sessions

CTF is the lead coordinator and training agency bringing Talking About Touching to Massachusetts. Various training and informational sessions are offered, including the following:

Staff Trainings

Jan. 30, 2004 Northampton
April 15, 2004 Boston

Training the Trainers

Jan. 14-16, 2004 Boston
May 5 - 7, 2004 Worcester
Contact Kathy Kelley at (617) 727-8957 Ext. 333 or at kkkelley@mctf.state.ma.us.

Committee for Children and the Children's Trust Fund for their hard work in helping to implement this important safety program," said Deacon Anthony Rizzuto, director of the Office of Child Advocacy, Implementation, and Oversight for the Archdiocese.

"With your help, we can ensure we are doing everything possible to protect our children and create a safer environment where the scandal of child abuse can be prevented," Rizzuto said.

Help to prevent child abuse during the holiday season

Year-end giving is a wonderful way to prevent child abuse and neglect in your community, as well as save on taxes.

Year-end 2003 is also a great time to consider a gift of stock.

Giving appreciated stock allows you to save taxes two ways. You avoid paying capital gains tax on the increase in value of your stock. You also receive a tax deduction for the full fair-market value of the stock.

You also can make a donation on a monthly basis. This can be done automati-

cally on your credit card or through monthly checks.

For example, if you pledge a gift of \$1,000, your payments will be \$84 per month.

For information about year-end giving, please call Jodi A. Wolin, chief development officer, at 617-727-8957, ext. 339.

Please check with your financial advisor regarding personal tax implications.

Why I support Children's Trust Fund

"Even though I live in a relatively affluent community, I understand that teen pregnancy, child abuse, poor parenting, etc. can occur across income levels," wrote Julia Hanna, of Milton, in her donation letter to CTF.

Julia, 13, heard that CTF faced state budget cuts. She decided to act and selected CTF as the beneficiary of her Tzedakah, the act of kindness required as part of her Bat Mitzvah.

"Your program provides such crucial assistance that it would be horrible if the budget cuts succeeded in eliminating or diminishing any of its programming," wrote Julia, who entered the eighth grade in fall.

She donated \$500. "I wish I could make a larger donation, because your program deserves our full support."

Julia is busy with her temple, Girl Scouts, dance and piano lessons. But she would like to continue to help CTF.

She and her mom, Karen, who is also her Girl Scout leader, plan to



Photo by Patrick Cahn

Julia Hanna, 13, of Milton donated \$500 to CTF as part of her Tzedakah, the act of kindness for her Bat Mitzvah.

recruit her troop to organize an in-kind gift drive to benefit participants in Healthy Families Massachusetts.

"I'd love to help this program because I know that CTF does important work to help families," Julia said.

First Lady honors CTF parents



First Lady Ann Romney gathers with Family Recognition Award winners during CTF's Family Support Institute. From left to right: Marie Cassidy and Stacey Hilliard, Medford Family Center; Kate Reagan, and Michelle Stephanelli, Healthy Families Milford; Mrs. Romney; Kristen Brundle, Matthew Hutchinson, and Ginny Scibilio, Healthy Families Plymouth.

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CTF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November through January

Holiday Toy Drive 7 to 11 p.m., Dec. 13, Biltmore Sofa, 1313 Washington St., Boston. South End furniture store to host event to benefit CTF programs. Raffle and silent auction. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and wine. Admission is one unwrapped toy or \$20.

Bring cheer to the Holidays. What do you buy for the person who has everything? CTF is pleased to offer Holiday Greeting Cards and Note Cards in designs by young artists. Holiday Cards include the message "Peace on Earth," while note cards are blank for your special message. CTF's mission is included on the back of both designs. These cards are wonderful to send or make a wonderful holiday gift. Price is \$10 per package of five cards and envelopes, plus \$1.50 for shipping and handling. Or, for a minimum donation of \$10, CTF will customize a card letting the recipient know that a donation has been made in his or her name to prevent child abuse. CTF will send the card out for you. To purchase, visit the CTF online store or call the CTF office.

For more information on events, contact CTF at (888) 775-4KID or (617) 727-8957. Visit us at our web site www.MCTF.org

Children's Trust Fund



Strengthening Families * Preventing Child Abuse

Friends of Children's Trust Fund

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Please mail us this reply envelope – even if you're not making a donation.

You can help prevent child abuse and strengthen local families by giving to the Children's Trust Fund and our proven programs.

But we want to hear from you even if you can't make a donation today. Please take a moment to let us know if you'd like to remain on our mailing list or if you want more information by filling out and mailing us your reply inside...



Remember - every dollar makes a difference in the life of a local child.

\$2,500 supports a ten-week education and support program for up to 20 parents.

\$250 supports one training session of a parenting education and support group.

\$1,000 installs a *Talking About Touching* program in one preschool.

\$100 provides a one-day workshop for a Parent Educator.

\$500 funds a *Kids and Company* program and library in an elementary school for use year after year.

\$50 empowers one preschooler with the skills to avoid sexual abuse and abduction.



Yes! I want to help prevent child abuse and neglect in Massachusetts.

Please make your check payable to the Children's Trust Fund. Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

PAYMENT METHOD:

Enclosed is my gift of:

\$2,500 \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other

Please contact me regarding a Matching Gift from my company.

Please contact me about planned giving opportunities.

I can't make a donation today, but please keep me on your mailing list.

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I would like my gift to be anonymous.

PRIVACY POLICY: CTF never sells, shares, or distributes our mailing list.

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Thank you for your gift or reply! Your help will make a difference in the life of a child.





Children's Trust Fund



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Thank you.